

CLAIMS

1. An electronic device comprising a display including:

a first display unit having a first display portion;

5 a second display unit having a second display portion;
and

coupling means, provided between the first and second
display units, for freely changing the mode of the display
among a first mode in which the first and second display
10 portions are folded so as to face each other, a second mode
in which the first and second display units are opened such
that the first and second display portions are arranged
longitudinally, and a third mode in which the first and
second display units are opened such that the first and
15 second display portions are adjacent to each other laterally.

2. The electronic device comprising the display according
to Claim 1, wherein the coupling means includes one or two
coupling shafts for folding the coupling means in two or
20 three; and rotating shafts are provided between the coupling
means and the first display unit and between the coupling
means and the second display unit to support the first and
second display units rotatably with respect to the coupling
means.

3. The electronic device comprising the display according to Claim 2, wherein planes containing the axes of either the coupling shafts or the rotating shafts are perpendicular to the axes of the other shafts.

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4. The electronic device comprising the display according to Claim 2 or 3, wherein the rotating shafts are provided on either the coupling means or the first and second display units; and holding holes for holding the rotating shafts are
10 provided on the other.

5. The electronic device comprising the display according to Claim 4, wherein the rotating shafts each have a narrow main portion and a wide portion integrally formed with an
15 end of the narrow portion; and the holding holes each have a rotation-permitting portion that permits the rotation of the narrow portion and an elongated hole portion integrally formed with the rotation-permitting portion to permit the sliding movement of the narrow portion.

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6. The electronic device comprising the display according to Claim 1, 2, 3, or 5, wherein at least one of the first and second display portions includes a transparent touch panel.

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7. The electronic device comprising the display according to Claim 1, 2, 3, or 5, wherein the first and second display units each include an RF unit for communicating data information therebetween using a radio wave.

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8. The electronic device comprising the display according to Claim 1, 2, 3, or 5, wherein the peripheries of the first and second display portions are protected by frames; sides of the frames which are adjacent to each other in the third mode are supported rotatably with respect to the other portions of the frames; and the first and second display portions form a single display portion with the sides rotated.

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9. An electronic device comprising:

a first rectangular casing including a first display portion;

a second rectangular casing including a second display portion;

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first securing means for securing the first and second casings with predetermined short sides thereof being in contact with each other; and

second securing means for securing the first and second casings with predetermined long sides thereof being in

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contact with each other.

10. The electronic device according to Claim 9, further comprising a first rotating portion for rotatably connecting the first and second casings, wherein

5 the first rotating portion accommodates wiring connecting electrical systems of the first and second casings;

 the first display portion of the first casing and the second display portion of the second casing are provided so
10 that the display portions are arrangeable in the same plane; and

 the first and second casings are relatively rotatable about the first rotating portion in a predetermined plane.

15 11. The electronic device according to Claim 9, having a cellular phone function and a television or Internet receiver function, wherein

 a cellular phone is formed when the first securing means secures the predetermined short sides of the first and
20 second casings; and

 a television or Internet receiver is formed when the second securing means secures the predetermined long sides of the first and second casings.

25 12. The electronic device according to Claim 11, wherein

the first and second casings have the same aspect ratio, the aspect ratio being 3:2 or 9:8.

13. The electronic device according to Claim 12, wherein
5 the second display portion of the second casing forms an input part when the electronic device is used as a cellular phone.

14. The electronic device according to any of Claims 9,
10 10, 12, and 13, further comprising:

a first protective plate for protecting the first display portion;

a second rotating portion for attaching the first protective plate to the predetermined long side of the first
15 casing rotatably with respect to the first casing;

a second protective plate for protecting the second display portion; and

a third rotating portion for attaching the second protective plate to the predetermined long side of the
20 second casing rotatably with respect to the second casing.

15. The electronic device according to any of Claims 9, 10, 12, and 13, wherein

the first securing means comprises first locking means
25 for locking the first and second casings with the

predetermined short sides thereof being in contact with each other; and

the second securing means comprises second locking means for locking the first and second casings with the
5 predetermined long sides thereof being in contact with each other.

16. The electronic device according to Claim 14, further comprising:

10 third locking means for locking the first protective plate such that the first protective plate extends from the first casing laterally; and

fourth locking means for locking the second protective plate such that the second protective plate extends from the
15 second casing laterally.

17. The electronic device according to Claim 16, further comprising a capacitive sensor disposed on the back surface of the second casing to output a signal related to the
20 unlocking of the first and second locking means.

18. The electronic device according to Claim 17, further comprising an insulating band disposed on the back surface of the second casing to cover the capacitive sensor and
25 secure a human hand inserted between the band and the second

casing.

19. An electronic device comprising:

a first casing including a first display portion and
5 having adjacent short and long sides;

a second casing including a second display portion and
having adjacent short and long sides;

first securing means for securing the first and second
casings with short sides thereof being in contact with each
10 other; and

second securing means for securing the first and second
casings with long sides thereof being in contact with each
other.

15 20. The electronic device according to Claim 1 or 9,
being a portable information terminal.